

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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FROM: Dhahran

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 327, January 8

NIACT

Control: 4330	
DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Mr. January 8, 1957	
REVIEWED BY <i>J. Brown</i>	DATE 10/15/82
KDS ☐ or KDS ☐ EXT. DATE	
TS AUTH. (SECTION 1 OF 2)	
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 PRIORITY JIDDA 181, PRIORITY ROME 15.

FROM AMBASSADOR WADSWORTH

Re my telegram 321 from Dhahran

Herewith best preliminary reply to questions of detail re King
 Saud visit I have been able work out with Royal Counselor Yusuf
 Yasin.

1. Royal party will be between 40 and 50 persons, all men,
 as outlined below. This is less than half numbers taken on
 royal visits to India and Iran.

2. It is difficult to divide party into "official ten" and
 "others" instead, we suggest following seven categories:

(A) Members of official party who would participate or be
 available to participate in high level discussion and negotiation:
 His Majesty King Saud, His Majesty's uncle Prince Musaeed, four
 royal counselors one of whom may be Minister Finance; total 6.
 (Note: Yasin would be one of counselors; others as yet unnamed;
 even Musaeed open to change).

(B) Members of official party who would not (repeat not)
 participate in discussions but whose rank, equivalent to
 minister, entitles them to full official status: Director
 General of Press, Broadcasting and Publications Abdullah Balkhair,
 and Bureau Chief of Royal Diwan Mohamed Ben Ghaither; total 2.

(C) Members of official party chosen to backstop categories (A)
 and (B): Royal Physician, Protocol Officer, His Majesty's
 military aide, three Political Department officials, two Royal
 Diwan officials, and three Royal guard officers; total 11.

(D) Bodyguard

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(D) Bodyguard to His Majesty: Four Akhuwiyeh (Arab uniformed personal guards).

(E) Personal attendants to certain of foregoing: Five personal attendants to His Majesty and one each to Prince Musaeed and four royal counselors; total 10.

(F) "Others", i.e., high-ranking personages not (repeat not) members of official party: Four Royal Princes and two "intimates" of His Majesty; total 6. (Note: Royal Princes are as yet not (repeat not) selected). Royal intimates are Shaikhs Mohamed Turki and Abdulla Saadun who, according to Yasin, "always travel with His Majesty and rank with and after royal counselors". If, for instance, eight above-listed members of official party in categories (A) and (B) were to be lodged during three-day official visit in Blair and Blair-Lee Houses, His Majesty would wish two Royal intimates included, they and Prince Musaeed to reside with him, and four royal counselors and two "ministers" to reside in other house; total 10. Alternatively, as matter of courtesy only, since they are not (repeat not) members of official party, four "other" royal Princes could be lodged other house and Saudi Embassy asked to arrange lodging elsewhere for four counselors and two ministers. Personally, I do not (repeat not) so recommend but suggest four Royal Princes might perhaps be lodged, as special mark courtesy during three days of King's official stay in Washington, in other USG accommodation.

(G) Six personal attendants, one each for the six "others" listed above in category (F).

Grand total 45.

3. Yasin requests firm reservations for 50 persons be made on SS CONSTITUTION, as follows: Royal suite for His Majesty; small suites or single de luxe apartments for five Royal Princes, four royal counselors and two royal intimates; first class single rooms for two ministers and royal physician; single or double first-class rooms for remaining ten persons in category (C); five additional first-class single rooms to provide for possible five additional officials or dignitaries; and "appropriate accommodation" for four members His Majesty's body-guard and 16 personal attendants noted in categories (E) and (G); total 50.

4. I should

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4. I should appreciate Department making first class reservations for me, Stoltzfus and Mohamed. King has expressed special desire Mohamed accompany us, and Yasin urges strongly and to me persuasively that Mohamed, with his unique understanding of King's background thinking and personal policies, be accepted by Department as confidential royal interpreter.

CARRIGAN

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Action

Control: 4270
Rec'd: January 8, 1957
8:58 p.m.

FROM: Dhahran

Info

TO: Secretary of State

RMR

NO: 327, January 8, 11 p.m. (SECTION 2 of 2)

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JIDDA 181, PRIORITY ROME 15.

5. Re Department's comments on interpreter, Stoltzfus is prepared interpret as appropriate with following reservations: (A) He has no (repeat no) previous experience high-level interpreting; and (B) he finds King's Najdi (Saudi hinterland) Arabic dialect not fully comprehensible after experience only three audiences with King (at which Mohamed interpreted and he took notes) and only eight weeks in country. He will have further opportunity familiarize himself with King's Arabic while en route United States, but in view above we believe it desirable that both he and Mohamed accompany me, thus making available most effective team from view points language and relations with King and court.

6. King has expressed no (repeat no) wishes re travel United States or persons or places he might wish to see except to voice hope there will be ample occasion for him to meet Secretary Dulles, whose 1953 visit he recalls with pleasure, and that he, Princes and chief advisers may be able to meet early during visit "our American friends and officials handling Middle Eastern affairs." Yasin said that by "American friends" His Majesty presumably means such personalities, congressional and other, whom Department might deem it desirable he meet. Our suggestion is that Department arrange occasion on second or third day of official visit when King might receive such persons and present them to his party.

Yasin and I believe King would enjoy visiting Pentagon, West Point, Annapolis and some appropriate nearby USAF training station during week following three-day official visit. Yasin asks me request other suggestions from Ohliger of ARAMCO (which I shall report) but makes special point that King wishes ample free time and will wish personally follow and direct counselors negotiations and exchange of views with Department officials.

7. Re gifts, Yasin welcomed suggestion that joint Saudi-American scholarship fund for study and travel be established during King's visit. He

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visit. He said would convey suggestion to King and bear in mind my counsel against "lavish" gifts but would not (repeat not) wish advise King against taking certain gifts of personal nature as has ever been custom Saudi rulers. Can Department let us have some indication its thinking re details and magnitude such scholarship fund?

8. Yasin ended discussion on theme that most important objective of visit is concrete contribution toward peace and stability, notably in Middle East, and towards strengthening US-Saudi relations, notably in field of arms, economic aid and mutually beneficial relationship at Dhahran airfield.

He said that, if in addition we could understand fully each other's aims and arrive at some common policy and announce it at end of King's visit, we would make great contribution toward area stability and progress.

As corollary he hopes this might include finding common policy for seeking settlement of question of Buraimi and the disputed frontiers.

9. Since drafting foregoing we are informed by USAF there is no (repeat no) adequate airfield at Genoa at which Convair aircraft can land. Yasin is therefore now planning that royal party will fly in Saudi Convairs January 17th or 18th to Egypt (where King will consult with Nasser) and January 19th or early 20th to Naples, where party would board SS CONSTITUTION on 20th instead of 21st in Genoa.

10. When leaving Riyadh this evening I was given lettres de cachet from King to his Ambassador in Rome and Washington with request I arrange that USAF or ARAMCO forward them by promptest safe hand. I shall endeavor do so but meanwhile am repeating this message to Cairo for information, to Jidda with request it inform Italian Minister, and to Rome with request it convey appropriate information to Italian Foreign Office and Saudi Ambassador; and I suggest, with Yasin's approval, that Department convey its full substance to Ambassador Khayal.

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